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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 6 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to bring to your attention the ongoing illegal detention of Mr. Namik Berberovic, a journalist and director of production of Radio and Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after he had been taken from a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) vehicle on 26 January 1995. This incident brings back to memory and reality similar previous actions, including the murder of Mr. Hakija Turajlic, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, some two years ago.

The Pale Serbs continue to refuse UNPROFOR officials access to Mr. Berberovic, while the site of his detention remains unknown.

We appreciate the efforts undertaken by UNPROFOR towards trying to secure Mr. Berberovic's release. Nevertheless, the intransigence and criminality of his Serb captors necessitate increased efforts.

Please find attached a letter from the President of the Labour Union of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Sulejman Hrle (see annex), addressed to you and copied to Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, UNPROFOR commander for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 3 February 1995 from the President of the Labour Union of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to the kidnapping of Radio and Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina's journalist and production director, Mr. Namik Berberovic, who has been detained for nine days by the aggressor waging war against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we request that you do the utmost to secure the release of Mr. Berberovic.

To only admit to the mistake committed and accept responsibility for it will not help Mr. Berberovic. The interior of United Nations vehicles is considered inviolable international territory of the international Organization, yet the United Nations is seemingly unable to protect civilians even when they are under its protection, giving greater credence to the perception that the United Nations has shown itself to be fully incapable of protecting civilians on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We are concerned that this is a case of lack of will, rather than inability to have Mr. Berberovic released.

We have informed the European Trade Union Confederation, seated at Brussels, of the situation and we urge you once again to take the necessary measures urgently to facilitate the speedy release of Mr. Berberovic, thus correcting what you have only defined as a "mistake".

(Signed) Sulejman HRLE
President of the Labour Union of
the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina